



FEMA

Oct. 27, 2016

FEMA-4284-DR NR-009

State Media Contact: (404) 635-7000

FEMA Media Contact: (770) 220-5226

News Release

Free Legal Services Available to Eligible Georgia Survivors Affected by Matthew

SAVANNAH, Ga. – Free legal assistance is now available to low-income Georgia disaster survivors who need help with home repair contracts and contractors, counseling on landlord-tenant issues or assistance with life, medical and property insurance claims.

Disaster often brings chaos, which can result in disagreements. Legal help is available to survivors in **Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh and Wayne** who can't afford to hire a lawyer to deal with disaster-related issues. Damage must have occurred from **Oct. 4-15**.

Legal assistance can include:

- ✓ help securing FEMA and other government benefits available to disaster survivors
- ✓ replacement of wills and other important legal documents lost or destroyed in the disaster
- ✓ assistance with consumer protection issues such as price gouging and avoiding contractor scams in the rebuilding process
- ✓ counseling on mortgage-foreclosure problems

The toll-free legal hotline to connect disaster survivors affected by Hurricane Matthew with legal aid providers is **866-584-8027**. Local residents may call **404-527-8793**. The lines are open **Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Individuals who qualify for assistance will be matched with Georgia lawyers who have volunteered to provide free, limited legal help. Assistance is not available for cases that will produce a fee; for example, those cases in which attorneys are paid part of the settlement by a court. Such cases are referred to a local lawyer referral service.

Consultations with attorneys are confidential.

Legal services are provided by FEMA partners, including the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, Georgia Legal Services Program and Atlanta Legal Aid Society.

(MORE)

Free Legal Services Available to Eligible Georgia Survivors – Page 2

For updates on Georgia's Hurricane Matthew response and recovery, follow @GeorgiaEMA and @FEMARegion4 on Twitter and visit gemhsa.ga.gov and fema.gov/disaster/4284.

###

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

###